

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-10 and 21-29 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1, 5-10, 21 and 24-26 are allowed. Claims 22, 23 and 27-29 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 22 and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yanagawa et al. (U.S. 2002/0075442, hereinafter “Yanagawa”). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 22 recites in part:

further comprising a depression which receives excess liquid crystal from the liquid crystal layer so that the gap between the first substrate and the second substrate is substantially uniform in the display region; and

wherein the depression is substantially vacant except for the excess liquid crystal.

The Examiner appears to assert that the NSPV serves as a depression and that “it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art that the depression also receives excess liquid crystal coming along with the bubbles from the liquid crystal layer, wherein the depression is substantially vacant except for the excess liquid crystal (see also Fig. 21).” Office Action, pg. 3-4. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s assertions. The non-formation regions NPSV of the protective film PSV2 gather bubbles contained in the liquid crystal so that the bubbles are concentrated at each of the non-formation regions NPSV. See para. 287. The non-formation regions NPSV of the

protective films PSV2 has the function of a region for trapping the bubbles. *See* para. 287. As indicted in the disclosure of Yanagawa, air or inert gas is specifically introduced into a vacuum vessel containing liquid crystal producing the bubbles. *See* paras. 288, 290. Fig. 10 illustrating an exemplary embodiment of the present invention shows that the depression (buffer 68) is completely filled up with liquid. The buffer is added so the excess liquid can go in the buffer leading to equal spacing between substrates 12 and 14. *See* Applicant's Specification, pg. 28, ln. 3-8. The NPSV region disclosed in Yanagawa merely traps bubbles that remain as liquid crystal is being injected into the liquid crystal display panel.

Therefore, as these NPSV regions contain gas and air because they are made primarily for trapping bubbles comprising of gas, the depression is not substantially vacant except for excess liquid crystal. Accordingly, Examiner's assertion is incorrect and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22.

Claims 27-29 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 22.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yanagawa in view of Kijima et al. (US 6,259,500, hereinafter "Kijima"). Kijima does not make up for the deficiencies of Yanagawa with respect to claim 23. Therefore, Applicant asserts that claim 23 is allowable as well.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/629,650

Attorney Docket No.: Q76784

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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